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ABSTRACT

The orthographic compounds (two or more words written as one word) in M. Rhode and B. Cronnell's lexicon of words used by elementary school children are categorized in this paper, primarily in terms of related semantic/syntactic structures. Following a discussion of orthographic compounds, the paper mentions procedures used by Rhode and Cronnell in specifying compound words used by children; it then outlines the procedures used in categorizing the more than 1,300 compounds in the Rhode and Cronnell lexicon. The first of two appendixes presents compounds divided into 15 categories on the basis of the relationship between the two parts of the compounds (subject/predicate, subject/verb, verb/object, verb/object of preposition, and so on). Within categories, the words are arranged by grade level. The second appendix lists words that do not fit into any of the categories used in the first appendix. (GT)

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ORTHOGRAPHIC COMPOUNDS IN THE VOCABULARY OF ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CHILDREN

Bruce Cronnell

ABSTRACT

The compounds in the Rhode and Cronnell (1977) lexicon are categorized, primarily in terms of related semantic/syntactic structures.

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ORTHOGRAPHIC COMPOUNDS IN THE VOCABULARY OF ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CHILDREN

Bruce Cronnell

A compound is a set of two or more words functioning as one unit. This definition is vague, but linguistic discussions of English compounds are varied and contradictory (cf. Sears, 1972). However, orthographic compounds can be more clearly defined: two or more words written as one word, either with no space between the words (e.g., greenhouse, notwithstanding) or with hyphens between the words (e.g., grown-up, merry-go-round). Hyphens seem more common when (1) the compounds are relatively new in the language, (2) orthographic confusion might result if there were no separation between the two parts, and (3) phrasal compounds occur.

Rules have been suggested for the writing of compounds as separate words, as hyphenated words, or as run-on words (e.g., Ball, 1951), but in practice considerable variation exists. Since even dictionaries disagree as to the orthographic status of compounds (the three possible forms might be found in three different dictionaries), there is no standard for the writing of compounds. The orthographic forms of compounds in this study are based on the forms found in Webster's new collegiate dictionary (1967) and in The America Heritage dictionary of the English language (1969). When these dictionaries disagree, the most compact form is used (i.e., run-on over hyphenated, but hyphenated over separate words).

Rhode and Cronnell (1977) compiled words (including compounds) used by children in grades K-6; this word set forms the basis for the

present analysis. All compounds were coded "C" for computer retrieval. (Included as compounds were two-word geographic names; e.g., South Carolina.)

In addition, Rhode and Cronnell specified a class of "pseudocompounds" (coded "G"). Some pseudocompounds are similar to regular compounds except that one (or more) of the words in the compound is spelled and/or pronounced differently from its spelling and/or pronunciation as an independent word. For example, well is spelled wel in welcome; lace is pronounced /lɪs/ in necklace; mass is spelled mas and pronounced /mæs/ in Christmas. Rhode and Cronnell also included two other kinds of words as pseudocompounds: (1) reduplicatives (e.g., yoyo, bowwow); (2) words composed of one or more free base, but with the rest of the word either a bound base (e.g., micro in microwave) or not identifiable as either a base or an affix (e.g., mul in mulberry).

As is obvious, Rhode and Cronnell were liberal in their coding of words as compounds or pseudocompounds. As a result, 13% of their 10,000 word lexicon is composed of compounds (about 1100) and pseudo-compounds (about 225). Of these about 10% are hyphenated. Half of the pseudocompounds involve pronunciation changes; about a fifth involve spelling changes.

Classification of compounds

With over 1300 compounds (including pseudocompounds) in the Rhode and Cronnell lexicon, additional analysis is needed to use them for instructional purposes. As a first step, a number of words were eliminated because they did not seem useful for further analysis:

1. proper names (with the exception of a few that are transparent compounds)
2. reduplicatives
3. onomatopoeic words
4. words containing Greek bases
5. days of the week
6. compass directions

The remaining words were classified according to the categories proposed by Lees (1963).* However, some revisions and additions were made in Lees' categories for two reasons: (1) some categories did not apply to the present word base; (2) Lees' categories were designed for noun compounds, while the Rhode and Cronnell lexicon contains compounds used as other parts of speech as well. Appendix A contains the Rhode and Cronnell compounds classified according to this revised scheme.

Within categories, the words in Appendix A are arranged by grade level (0 = K; 1-6 = grades 1-6; U = ungraded, i.e., no grade level information available--primarily new words; see Rhode, 1975). For the most part, distribution by grade level matches the grade level distribution of all words in the lexicon; however, there are more "U" words than would be expected on the basis of the frequency of ungraded words in the total vocabulary. This suggests the importance of

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*Lees' work has received some well-founded criticism (see, for example, Downing, 1977). However, his categories are used in the present paper not to derive compounds, but rather to classify and describe a limited set of them.

compounding as an active and productive word-formation process. Affixed forms of compounds are generally listed with the unaffixed forms. Morphological changes may occur with compounding (e.g., singular where plural would be expected; unpredictable suffixes; clipped forms rather than full words); where convenient, such changes are indicated by underlining. Pseudocompounds are indicated with "G."

Words that do not fit into any of the categories used in Appendix A are listed in Appendix B. They are predominantly of three types: (1) words that belong in categories of very low frequency; (2) pseudocompounds with an unidentifiable part; (3) words where the original relationship between the compound and its parts is no longer obvious.

The present classification of compounds can be used in designing and developing instruction, as well as in the conduct of research.

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APPENDIX A

CLASSIFIED COMPOUNDS

I. Verb - Particle: Someone Xs Y....

A. XY

0	drive-in	
1	cleanup	
	cookout	
	cutout	
	grown-up	
	hideout	
	leftover	
2	blastoff	
	makeup	
3	runaway	
4	dugout	
	lookout	
	pickup	
5	fallout	
	overrun	
	takeoff	
	worn-out	
6	breakdown	
	holdup	
	passer-by	
	roundup	
U	blackout	pushover
	brush-off	put-down
	build-up	put-on
	change-up	ripoff
	cop-out	run-through
	crackdown	see-through
	crackup	setup
	cutback	spinout
	dropout	splashdown
	flashback	take-out
	getaway	throwaway
	hang-up	towaway
	payoff	turnaround
	pin-up	turn-on
		walk-out

B. YX

0	outfit
	understand (understood - 4)
	(misunderstand - 3)
	(misunderstanding - 6)
	(misunderstood - 3)
	underwear
2	overflow
3	crosswalk
4	touchdown
5	downpour
	outline
	outpost
	outlet (G)
	overhang
	overheat
	overturn
	undertake (undertook - 6)
	(undertaker - 6)
	(undertaking - 6)
6	bygone
	oncoming
	outcome
	outgoing
	outstanding
	overcome (overcame)
	overhear (overheard)
	overlook
	oversleep (overslept - 3)
	overtake (overtook)
	overthrow (overthrown)
	underlying
	uproot
	withstand
U	bypass
	overpass
	underpass

II. Subject - Predicate: The X is (a) Y = YX

A. Y = noun

0 daytime
hallway
nighttime

1 boyfriend
dandelion (G)
mantelpiece
noontime
schoolhouse

2 copperhead
doorway
stairway
summertime

3 springtime

4 crossbow
gateway
glassware
textbook

6 handlebar
homeland
lifetime
paperback
pathway
pipeline

B. Y = adverb

0 downtown
upside
uptown

3 outfield
(outfielder - 6)

6 downhearted
upland (G)

C. Y = adjective

1. YX is a kind of X (endocentric)

0 blackboard
goldfish
highway

1 badman
barefoot
(barefooted)
blackbird
bluebird
flatcar
Greenland
highchair
holiday (G)
left-handed
old-fashioned
silverware

2 blackberry
blueberry
grandstand
greyhound
hardball
highland
(highlander - 4)
loudspeaker
roundhouse
softball
wildcat

3 gentleman
(gentlemen - 2)
hardware
wildlife

4 freeway

5 deep-sea
Frenchman
livestock
long-distance
lowland
quicksand
wide-eyed

6 bareback
blueprint
flatboat
freeman
good-natured
hardwood
kind-hearted
mainland
nobleman
(noblemen)
rawhide

U high-octane
hot-rod
open-circuit
open-heart
short-term

2. YX is not a kind of X (exocentric)

0 petticoat (G)

2 goldenrod
redbreast
redwood
sweetheart

5 broadside
commonplace
redcoat
redhead
redskin
surefooted

6 freeman (G)

U fastback
hardtop
longhorn

III. Possessive: The X has (a) Y.

A. XY

0 birdhouse
doghouse
fingernail
horseshoe
ponytail
weekend

1 deerskin
eyesight
seashore

2 arrowhead
barnyard
beehive
birdcage
broomstick
doorbell
horseback
housetop

3 birchbark
cattail
cornstalk
roadside
schoolroom
sealskin
toenail

4 cod-liver
hillside
mountainside
pigtail
weekday
whalebone
windowpane

5 bearskin
boathouse
buckskin
carport
cartwheel
coonskin
corncob
firelight
hilltop
manpower
schoolmaster
sheepskin
sunbeam
watercolor
waterfront

6 churchyard
cowhide
farmyard
fireside
folklore
foothold
horsepower
rooftop
seacoast
townspeople

U bullhorn
pinpoint
turtleneck

B. YX

0 bathroom
bedroom
drugstore
motorboat
newspaper
sailboat
sandbox
speedboat
watermelon

1 buttermilk
Iceland (G)
lighthouse
motorcycle
rattlesnake
sandpaper
stepladder
storybook

2 milkweed
oilcloth
snowstorm
tiptoe

3 armchair

4 fruitcake
limestone
plywood
woodpile

5 foothill
patchwork
railway
sandbar
sugarcane
thunderstorm
woodland (G)

6 bunkhouse
grassland
landlord
oilskin
parkway
vineyard (G)
windstorm

U ball-point
filtertip
hatchback
matchbook
pantsuit
soundtrack
switchblade
waterbed

IV. Subject - Verb: The X Ys (...).

A. XY

0 earache
earthquake
headache
sunburn
sunshine

1 raindrop
snowdrift
toothache

2 stomachache
sunset
waterfall

3 sunrise

4 footstep

5 frostbite
(frostbitten - U)
heart-broken

6 daybreak
nightfall
snowfall

B. YX

0 ferryboat
flashlight
policeman (policemen - 2)
popcorn
speedboat

1 crybaby
huntsman (huntsman - 6) (G)
leapfrog
mockingbird

2 brakeman (G)
breakwater
driftwood
fisherman (fishermen - 4) (G)
hummingbird
tugboat
workman (workmen - 5) (G)

3 broken-hearted
chairman (G)
herdsman (herdsmen) (G)

5 firearm
whirlpool
whirlwind

6 crossroad
patrolman (patrolmen) (G)
watchman (G)

U anchorman
cease-fire
dive-bomb
flashcube
guardrail
litterbug
spokesman (G)
turntable
whirlybird

V. Subject - Object: The X does something to (a/the) Y.

A. XY

0 football [kick]

1 steamroller [propel]
windmill [power]

2 steamboat [propel]
steamship [propel]

3 beeswax [make]
footprint [make]
sawdust [make]

5 gooseberry [eat]
oxcart [pull]

B. YX

0 cowboy [herd]
fireman (firemen) [extinguish] (G)
mailman [deliver]
milkman [deliver]

1 honeybee [make]

2 bloodhound [smell]
weatherman [report]
yardstick [measure]

3 newsboy [deliver]
silkworm [make]

5 businessman [operate]
lifeboat [save]
marksman [hit] (G)
postman (postmen) [deliver] (G)
salesman [make] (G)
woodsman (woodsmen) [cut] (G)

6 boatman (boatmen) [operate] (G)
craftsman (craftsmen) [make] (G)
flagship [carry]
sportsman (sportsmen) (sportsmanship) [play] (G)
timetable [tell]

U newsman (newsmen) [report] (G)
pinball [hit]
saleslady [make]

Note: The verb in brackets after each compound suggests the semantics of the verb that can connect the subject and object.

VI. Verb - Object: Someone/Something Xs (the/a) Y.

A. XY

0 breakfast (G)

1 bullfight
postcard
scarecrow
turnpike
wheelbarrow

2 rowboat

4 shotgun
volleyball

6 crossbones
drawbridge
turnstile

U ripcord
split-level

B. YX

0 haircut
shepherd* (G)
snowplow
toothbrush
toothpick

1 air-condition*
(air-conditioned)
haystack
lifeguard
newsprint

2 carload
mousetrap
spotlight

3 billfold

4 wagonload

5 shipwreck

6 self-respect
self-government
shipload

U carpool
hairdo
newscast
self-destruct
self-employed

C. YXer

0 dishwasher
lifesaver*

1 cowcatcher
screwdriver
shoemaker
woodpecker

2 dressmaker*
sheepherder
skyscraper
storekeeper
taxpayer
woodcutter

3 anteater
housekeeper
innkeeper

4 nutcracker

5 bookkeeper*
landowner
schoolteacher
storyteller

6 caretaker

U airconditioner*
eyeliner
hip-hugger
homemaker*
merrymaker*
scriptwriter
weight-watcher

D. YXing

0 Thanksgiving

2 dressmaking*

5 backbreaking
lifesaving*
shipbuilding
sight-seeing

6 bookkeeping*
earsplitting
merrymaking*

U airconditioning*
arm-twisting
daylight-saving
face-lifting
homemaking*
wiretapping

*Related form found in C and/or D.

VII. Subject - Object of preposition; The X verb preposition (a/the) Y.

A. Copulative verb: The X is preposition (a/the) Y = YX

1. for: The X is for (a/the) Y.

0 ashtray
bathtub
Christmas (G)
clothespin
coffeepot
cupboard (G)
earring
fireplace
handkerchief (G)
lipstick
mailbox
necklace (G)
suitcase
tablecloth
toothpaste

1 airport
bathrobe
bedtime
bookshelf
buttonhole
chalkboard
checkerboard
dishcloth
dustpan
earmuff
eyeglasses
necktie
shoelace
toothpowder
wallpaper
wastebasket

2 bedspread
bookcase
classroom
flowerpot
handcuff
mousetrap
notebook
teakettle
teapot
teaspoon
(teaspoonful - 6)

3 battlefield
battleship
cheesecloth
chopstick
cockpit
fairground
fishbowl
footstool

3 (con't.)
graveyard
greenhouse
pillowcase
saucepan
tablespoon
teacup
warehouse
wristwatch

4 barbershop
dishpan
doggie-bag
fairyland
flagpole
gunpowder
hairpin
hayloft
playtime
powerhouse
warpath
woodshed

5 courthouse
farmland
firewood
footpath
handbag
keyhole
shipyard
smokestack
waterway

6 airfield
airway
clothesline
honeycomb
logbook
mealtime
staircase
warship
windpipe

U bikeway
earplug
handgun
heliport (G)
king-size
litterbag
queen-size
screenwriter
trailer-park

2. Location: The X is from in/on/at/etc. (a/the) Y.

0 backyard
rainbow
sidewalk
spaceship
streetcar

1 airliner
seashell
seaweed
sideshow

2 background
campfire
doorstep
earthworm
farmhouse
headlight
housework
meadowlark

3 backbone
doorknob
eyebrow
eyelash
groundhog
moonlight

4 caveman (cavemen)
classmate
eardrum
eyelid
housewife (housewives - 6)
seaport

5 backwoods
countryman (countrymen) (G)
courtyard
eyeball
saddlebag
starlight
teammate
topsoil

6 congressman (congressmen) (G)
headline
seaman (seamen) (G)

U moonflight
moonrock
spacecraft
topnotch

VII. (continued)

A. (continued)

3. like: The X is like (a) Y.

0 butterfly
peanut
strawberry

1 bulldog
buttercup
frogman
jellyfish
starfish

2 catbird
catfish
cottontail
eggplant
ladybug
sunflower

3 boxcar
dragonfly
houseboat

4 bedrock

5 pickax

6 cottonwood
rosewood

B. Other verb

1. XY

3 grapevine [grow on]

6 gangplank [walk up]

4 sundial [shine on]

U sunroof [come through]

2. YX

0 airplane [fly in]
basketball [go in]

1 airship [fly in]
mayflower [bloom in]
seaplane [land on]

2 airmail [fly in]
penmanship [write with] (G)

4 aircraft [fly in]
baseman (basemen) [run to] (G)

5 silversmith [work with]

6 goldsmith [work with]

U aircrew [fly in]
moonship [fly to]

Note: The phrase in brackets after each compound suggests the semantics of the verb and preposition.

VIII. Verb - Object of preposition: Someone/Something Xs (noun) preposition (a/the) Y.

A. XY

0 playground
playhouse

1 driveway
playmate
playpen
playroom
spyglass
washcloth

2 sawmill
workshop

3 angleworm
fishhook
paintbrush
pitchfork
washtub
wishbone

4 storehouse
surfboard

5 clipboard
runway
storeroom

6 blindfold
grindstone

U charbroil
skateboard
sweatshirt

B. YX

0 finger-paint
grasshopper
ice-skate
typewriter
windshield

1 thumbtack

3 backstop
needlework
woodwork

4 homemade

5 daydream
handspring
homespun
man-made
seagoing
snowcapped

6 everlasting
handwriting
moonwalk
spellbound
whitewash

U airlift
baby-sit (baby-sitter - 1)
bodysurf
carhop
centerfold
day-care
moonshot
rainwear
self-addressed
skydiver/skydiving
slipcover
speed-reading

IX. Object - Object of preposition: Someone/Something verb X preposition (a/the) Y = YX

A. verb = make; preposition = with/of/from

0 applesauce
cornflake
oatmeal
railroad
snowball
snowman (snowmen - 1)

1 gingerbread

2 cornmeal
woodpulp

4 sandstone

6 cornstarch

U cheeseburger
handprint

B. Miscellaneous

0 cupcake [make, in]
basketball [put, in]
pancake [make, in]
raincoat [wear, in]

1 icebox [put, in]
housecoat [wear, in]
nightgown [wear, at]
snowsuit [wear, in]
sunglasses [wear, in]
sunsuit [wear, in]

2 snowshoe [wear, in]

3 sunbonnet [wear, in]

Note: The words in brackets after each compound suggest the semantics of the verb and preposition.

X. Preposition - Object of preposition: X = preposition; Y = object: XY

0 afternoon
downstairs
outdoors
outlaw
outside (outsider - 6)
upstairs

1 downhill
overalls
overcoat

2 outdoor
overboard
overnight
overshoe
underclothes
undershirt

3 underbrush
underground
upstream

4 downstream
outboard
out-of-doors
overhead

5 underfoot
up-to-date

6 alongside
overland
overseas
underside
underwater

U in-service
offbeat
onboard
overall
round-the-clock
undercover

XI. Verb - Predicate: Someone/something Xs Y(ly) = YX

1 broadcast (broadcaster - U)
shortcut

3 thoroughbred

4 shortstop

5 forthcoming
homecoming
newborn
ready-made
well-known

6 newcomer
widespread

U doubleknit
double-park
highrise
quick-freeze

XII. (the) X of (the) Y = YX

0 birthday

1 filmstrip
postmaster

2 daylight

4 headquarters
seasick

5 trustworthy

6 birthplace
clergyman (G)
coastline
skyline
thunderbolt
wholesale

XIII. Phrases: X Y = XY; X Y Z = XYZ; W X Y Z = WXYZ

0 another (G)
maybe
nobody
nothing (G)
upon

1 cannot
hide-and-seek
into
jack-in-the-box
onto

3 katydid (G)
nearby

5 far-off

6. matter-of-fact
standstill

U do-it-yourself (do-it-yourselfer)
faraway
ground-to-air
know-how
wall-to-wall

XIV. Coordination: X and Y = XY

1 walkie-talkie (G)

5 red-hot

U crash-land
drip-dry
jazz-rock
pantyhose
test-drive
tie-dye
wheeler-dealer

XV. Special sets

A. fore

1 forecast

2 forehead
foreman (G)

5 foreground
forepaw

6 forefather
foreleg
foremost

B. grand

0 granddaddy
grandfather
grandma
grandmother
grandpa

3 grandchild
(grandchildren)
grandson

5 grandparent

C. in-law

1 brother-in-law

4 sister-in-law
son-in-law

D. god

1 godfather
godmother

E. self

0 herself
himself
myself
yourself

1 itself
ourselves
themselves

5 yourselves

F. like

5 businesslike
warlike

G. proof

1 waterproof

6 fireproof
shrinkproof

H. ever

0 whenever

2 whatever
wherever (G)
whoever

3 however

I. some

0 somebody
someone
someplace
something
sometime
sometimes
somewhere

2 someday

3 somehow

4 somewhat

J. any

0 anybody
anyhow
anymore
anyone
anything
anyway
anywhere

3 anyplace

K. every

0 everybody
everyday
everyone
everything
everywhere

APPENDIX B

UNCLASSIFIED COMPOUNDS

airline 5
airtight 3
all-time U
all-out U
baseball 0
blacksmith 2
bobcat 2
bobolink 3 (G)
bonfire 4 (G)
boyseaberry U (G)
brand-new 3
brimstone 5
bulldoze 6(bulldozer)(G)
bumblebee 0
butterscotch 2
by-product 6
candlestick 1
cardboard 0
cauliflower 3 (G)
chestnut 2 (G)
cobblestone 5
cobweb 2
cocklebur 6 (G)
cocktail 2
cocoanut 0 (G)
coconut 0 (G)
codfish 4
commonwealth 6
copyright 6
countryside 6
crackerjack/crackajack 1 (G)
crackpot U
cranberry 0 (G)
crawfish 4 (G)
crayfish 2 (G)
custom-built U
custom-made U
dashboard 5
deadline U
dogwood 2
donut/doughnut 0 (G)
drumstick 1
dumbbell 5
easycare U
elsewhere 6
evergreen 2
farewell 3
firebox 5
firecracker 1
fireworks 3
fortnight 6 (G)
framework 3
furthermore 6
grapefruit 0
gumdrop 1
halfback U
half-dollar 1
halfway 0
Halloween 0 (G)
hamburger 0
handicap 6 (G)
headlong 6
hereafter 4
highjack 6
hijack U (G)
hobbyhorse 1
hobnail 5 (G)
hollyhock 6 (G)
homesick 4
homestead 6 (G)
honeymoon 4
(honeymooner I)
household 5
huckleberry 3 (G)
humbug 6
iceberg 3 (G)
island 0 (G)
jackknife 4
jack-o-lantern 0 (G)
jackpot U
jackrabbit 3
jam-packed U
jigsaw 3
karate-chop U
kerchief 2 (G)
kidnap (kidnapper)3(G)
knapsack 6 (G)
landscape 6 (G)
laundromat 4 (G)
lollypop/lollipop 0 (G)
lumberjack 3
mankind 6
marshmallow 0 (G)
matter-of-fact 6
meantime 5
meanwhile 4
medicare U (G)
mermaid 4 (G)
merry-go-round 0
midnight
midsummer
minibike U
minibus U
mistletoe 1 (G)
moreover 6
mulberry 2 (G)
muskmelon 3 (G)
muskrat 4
network 6
nevertheless 6
nickname 3 (G)
nightcap 6
nit-pick (nit-picking) U (G)
noonday 6
notwithstanding 6
nowadays 3 (G)
nowhere 2
nutmeg 6 (G)
outerwear 2
outnumber 5
outrage 5
outskirts 6
outwit 5
overdue 5
overjoyed 6
padlock 2 (G)
pasteboard 2
pasttime 6 (G)
peacock 2
peppermint 1
pineapple 0
platform 2 (G)
pocketbook 0
polecat 2
present-day 5
raspberry 2 (G)
reindeer 0 (G)
safeguard 6
sagebrush 4
screwball U
seafaring 6
shortcake 3
sideburn U
sideways 4
skyjack U
skyjacker U
slowpoke 1

APPENDIX B-UNCLASSIFIED COMPOUNDS (Cont'd.)

smallpox 1
starboard 6 (G)
stagecoach 0
statesman 6 (G)
  statesmen 6 (G)
stepmother 2
streamline 1
  (streamlined)
sundown 5
sunup 5
superhighway 5
tattletale 0
taxicab 2
teen-age U (teenager 4)
thereafter 6
therefore 4
three-wheeler U
thunderhead 5
today 0 (G)
tomboy 3
tomcat 3
tomorrow 0 (G)
tonight 0 (G)
topmost 6
trouble-shooter 6
twilight 3 (G)
two-wheeler U
underline 6
underneath 0 (G)
update U
upright 6
uproar 6
upset 1
upside-down 5
uptight U
utmost 6 (G)
vice-president 3
viceroy 5 (G)
walnut 0 (G)
wardrobe 1
warfare 6
welcome 0 (G)
welfare 4 (G)
whatsoever 6
whereabouts 5
withdraw 6
  (withdrawn)
  (withdrew)
within 4
without 4
woman 0 (women 1) (G)
woodchuck 2